



House Appropriations Committee

TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Dr. Bernie Sadusky, Executive Director of the Maryland Association of
Community Colleges

February 18, 2020

BILL: **HB 469 – Institutions of Postsecondary – Disorderly School
Closures**

POSITION: **Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges ("MACC"), representing all of Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports (with amendments) SB 446, which will require all postsecondary institutions in Maryland to have a process for shutting down an institution or closing an academic program so as to prevent a disorderly school and/or program closure.

Currently, Maryland's community colleges have a process in place for both orderly school closure and for closing one or more academic programs as it is required by our regional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (Middle States). While MACC believes the best solution would be to require all Maryland postsecondary institutions to be regionally accredited by Middle States, we understand the need for all institutions at a minimum be required to follow an orderly school closure process.

However, for closing an academic program, Maryland's community colleges believe that we are already meeting the intent of this bill and would like to provide the following amendments that mirror our current process.

11-210

(3) "DISORDERLY CLOSURE" MEANS THE CESSATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, OF A PROGRAM IN WHICH:

~~(I) A MARYLAND STUDENT IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE CESSATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION; AND~~
(I) THE INSTITUTION DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY AMOUNT OF TIME, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, FOR A MARYLAND STUDENT TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM;
(II) THE INSTITUTION DID NOT TRANSITION A MARYLAND STUDENT INTO ANOTHER PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION; OR
(III) THE INSTITUTION DID NOT ENTER INTO AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL TEACH-OUT AGREEMENT.

11-210

(C) (1) (I) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENT OF THIS TITLE, **ALL INSTITUTIONS** IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION **THAT DO NOT HOLD REGIONAL ACCREDITATION** SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION A CLOSE-OUT PLAN.

1. **ALL REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CLOSURE AND TEACH-OUT AGREEMENTS OF THEIR REGIONAL ACCREDITING BODY**

11-401.

(a) (1) Before any institution of postsecondary education operating in this State discontinues **ACADEMIC OR ADMINISTRATIVE** operation, [its chief administrative officer] **THE INSTITUTION** shall file with the Commission the original or legible copies of all essential records of the academic achievements of all former students of the institution.

(2) IN THE CASE OF AN INSTITUTIONAL CLOSURE THAT RESULTS IN A MERGER, THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE A PLAN TO FILE THE ESSENTIAL RECORDS OF ALL FORMER STUDENTS OF THE INSTITUTION WITH THE SUCCESSOR INSTITUTION.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and our amendments and thank you for all your support and efforts to improve Maryland's community colleges for the benefit of the students we serve.